



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Spring 2008

Arkansas Counties Weather Presidential Primary

Dodging killer tornadoes that cut across the northern half of the state, Arkansas weathered its first dedicated Presidential Primary Election on Feb. 5.

In 2005, the General Assembly passed legislation that moved the Presidential Primary from May to February in an effort to increase the state's importance in selecting party nominees. Other states followed suit, resulting in a so-called "Super-Duper Tuesday," with 24 states holding primaries or caucuses on that day.

Despite the powerful storms that pushed across the state, voters turned out in relatively strong numbers, likely due to the Arkansas ties of two front-runners, former First Lady Hillary Clinton and former Governor Mike Huckabee. Preliminary results showed a turnout rate of 34 percent with 540,963 registered voters participating in this election, compared to 22 percent turnout in 2004. This year's total includes 67,000 early votes and 9,800 absentee votes.

As tornadoes developed late in the afternoon on Election Day, the Secretary of State's office advised officials in the storm's path to take necessary precautions to protect staff and voters. Steps included securing voting equipment and ballots as well as closing polls early to allow poll workers and voters to take shelter.

"While my heart goes out to the families and communities devastated by the storms on Election Day, I am grateful that no one was injured while working the polls or voting and that all voting equipment and ballots were secured," Secretary of State Charlie Daniels said.

(See WEATHER continued on Page 2)



Pulaski County voters cast early ballots.

Restored Twin Chandelier Unveiled

As reported in the last issue of Capitol Report, Arkansas recently shared the gift of light with the people of Utah by donating components to help restore their State Capitol chandelier, the twin to the rotunda chandelier in Arkansas. That light made its debut in January during a grand ceremony in Salt Lake City.

The newly restored chandelier – complete with several of Arkansas's glass globes – was unveiled at the formal re-dedication of the Utah State Capitol on January 4. The chandelier restoration was a small, but significant, part of a four-year, \$230 million dollar renovation and earthquake retrofitting of the Utah Capitol.

In addition to the re-dedication, David Ware, Arkansas State Capitol historian, and Ann Clements, director of Communications and Education, represented Arkansas at the first event in a week-long series highlighting architectural elements and artwork in the Capitol. Lt. Governor Gary Herbert officially thanked Secretary Daniels and the state for the generous gift of the opal and alabaster globes, which can no longer be reproduced. Those sentiments were echoed by David Hart, architect of the Utah State Capitol, and Wilson Stiles, Utah's state historic preservation officer.

(See RESTORED continued on Page 2)



My thoughts and prayers remain with the communities devastated by tornadoes that ripped through north central Arkansas on February 5. Our hearts go out especially to the families of the 13 Arkansans who were so tragically killed in the storm.

Although it was Election Day across the state, our number one concern was – and always is – the safety of families and neighbors. My staff and I monitored conditions throughout the day and advised election officials to secure ballots and voting equipment if severe weather threatened. While there was damage to one polling site, no voters or election workers were injured. For this, I am truly thankful. Power outages and surrounding damage delayed election results in several counties, but I am glad to report that no voting equipment or ballots were damaged.

(Continued on Page 2)



Continued from front page

With Arkansas's Presidential Primary behind us, we now turn to state and local races ahead in the May 20 Preferential Primary Election. The filing period for state and district candidates was March 3 through noon on March 10, a period that was shortened to five days in the last legislative session. You can read about the candidates for each race at www.arelelections.org.

Along with other preparations for the May primary, my office will continue to work closely with the Arkansas National Guard to ensure troops have the opportunity to vote. We had a good response in the February primary, transferring around 1,660 absentee ballot applications to county clerks for processing. We will make every effort to expedite applications and ballots to and from our troops as they transition to duty in Iraq.

You can honor our troops by voting and by making sure your voter registration is up to date by the May 11 registration deadline. It's easy to check your information online at www.votenuaturally.org or by contacting your county clerk.

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WEATHER continued from front page

"Also, the strong turnout numbers indicate that most Arkansans wishing to vote got their chance in advance of the severe weather."

Nine counties with severe storm damage and power outages were initially forced to delay counting ballots: Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Izard, Jackson, Pope, Sharp, Stone, and Van Buren counties.

Within the week, however, all votes were tabulated. Preliminary results showed Clinton winning the Democratic vote with 70 percent to Barack Obama's 26 percent. On the Republican side, Huckabee took 61 percent to John McCain's 20 percent. The Green Party awarded 20 percent of its vote to Cynthia McKinney with 55 percent remaining uncommitted. For full results, visit www.arelelections.org.

Next up for Arkansas's Preferential Primary Election

- Voter registration deadline on April 21
- Early voting will be May 5-19
- Election Day on May 20

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In October, Secretary Daniels hosted Hart and Stiles at the Arkansas State Capitol to present the glass pieces, which were unused since Arkansas restored its chandelier in 2002. The partnership forged between these two states is a great example of how state governments

can work together to assist each other. A quote from Secretary Daniels, read by Lt. Gov. Herbert at the event, sums it up this way: "The magnanimous gift was the best thing for history in that one chandelier of this vintage could be complete, a much better alternative than each state having its own incomplete one."

Hall Portrait Returns Home

A portrait of former Secretary of State C.G. "Crip" Hall has returned to the State Capitol, courtesy of Robert Bailey of Little Rock. Bailey is the son-in-law of the long-time secretary and son of former Gov. Carl Bailey.

Upon its completion in the early 1960s, the portrait was on display in the main Secretary of State's office as part of a collection of portraits of former secretaries. Subsequent office holders removed all of the portraits, and Crip Hall's family saved his portrait by acquiring it from state surplus.

Thanks to Mr. Bailey's gift, Secretary Hall is now back at home in the office he ably served from 1937-1961. Hall is most noted for founding the tradition of the Capitol Lighting Ceremony that kicks off the holiday season each year.



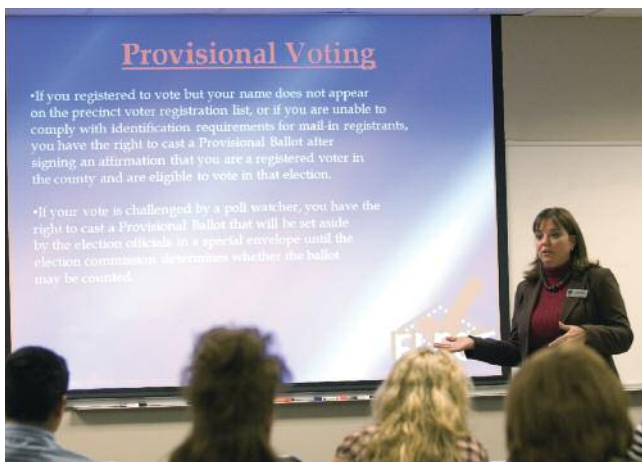
Robert Bailey presents the Hall portrait to Secretary of State Charlie Daniels.

Building Better Arkansans through Civics Ed

Instilling a strong sense of citizenship and civic involvement in young Arkansans has been one of Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' top concerns during his tenure. Each year introduces new programs and resources that bring Arkansas history and civics education right into Arkansas classrooms.

This year's addition is a custom civics curriculum for grades K through 8 that meets state education frameworks. Lessons introduce kindergartners to Arkansas and the concept of voting, then build at each grade level with topics such as state symbols, the roles of government and civic responsibilities. Funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Center for Civic Education, the curriculum was developed in collaboration with educators, the University of Central Arkansas, the Department of Education and the Secretary of State's office. Lesson plans and supporting materials will be available at no charge this spring on CD-ROM through the Secretary of State's office.

March is Young Voters Month, a time to engage students in relevant issues and the election process. More than 200 students from Arkansas's four congressional districts converged in Little Rock March 11-13 for the fifth year of activities focusing on civil rights, the electoral process and topical discussions.



Communications Coordinator Crystal Shell leads a Young Voters workshop for Kirby High School students in January.

Teachers can directly benefit from the Secretary of State's educational programs through summer inservice workshops. **Using the State Capitol to Teach** explores resources available for educators, including Arkansas activity books, speakers and historic presentations. This summer's workshops will prominently feature the new civics curriculum, as well as information on the

Capitol as a field trip destination. These sessions provide required continuing education credits in Arkansas history.

For information about any of the Secretary of State's educational programs, contact Education Coordinator Jennifer Schaffner at jennifer.schaffner@sos.arkansas.gov.

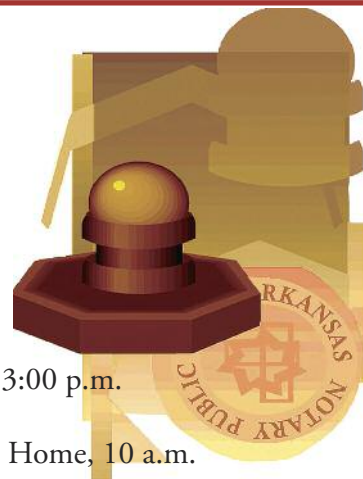
Attend Notary Training

At a Site Near You

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels announces that staff from the Business and Commercial Services Division will again take the popular notary public seminar on the road in spring 2008. Notaries can attend any of 25 free seminars across the state:

March 27	Hot Springs, 2:30 p.m.	May 8	Harrison, 3:00 p.m.
April 1	Conway, 10 a.m.; Searcy, 2:30 p.m.	May 9	Mountain Home, 10 a.m.
April 9	Little Rock, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.	May 14	Little Rock, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
April 10	Fort Smith, 9 a.m.; Russellville, 1 p.m.	May 16	Fayetteville, 10:30 a.m.
April 16	El Dorado, 3 p.m.	May 21	Jonesboro, 9 a.m.; Paragould, 1 p.m.
April 17	Magnolia, 9 a.m.; Camden, 1 p.m.	May 29	West Memphis, 9 a.m.; Forrest City, 1 p.m.
April 29	Monticello, 9 a.m.; Pine Bluff, 1 p.m.		

About 3,500 current and prospective notaries public have attended this seminar since its inception in 2005. Registration is available online at www.sos.arkansas.gov, or by e-mailing jarrod.johnson@sos.arkansas.gov or calling 501-682-3409 or toll-free 1-888-233-0325. You can also contact the office to request private on-site seminars for groups of 10 or more.



Upcoming Deadline Reminders for Arkansas Businesses

The Division of Business and Commercial Services reminds corporations of important deadlines that are just around the corner:

Franchise Taxes Due May 1

Franchise tax time is here again, and the Secretary of State's office reminds corporations to submit annual reports and franchise taxes by May 1.

Many tax preparers choose to file online at www.sos.arkansas.gov, where they can save a corporation's tax profile to use in future years. Online filing provides immediate proof of payment and fits any filer's schedule.

Tax forms are now on their way to corporations that have not previously filed online. Corporations must submit their annual report and franchise tax payment no later than May 1, 2008, to avoid penalties and interest.

Nonprofit Reports Due August 1

BCS is updating contact information for Arkansas nonprofits in preparation for new reporting requirements that take effect this year.

Act 569 of 2007 requires all non-profit corporations to file an annual report, including the name of the corporation; corporation's jurisdiction; name and address of the corporation's registered agent; address of the corporation's principal office; names of the corporation's principal officers, and names and addresses of the corporation's directors. This annual report is due by August 1 each year, beginning in 2008.

Current nonprofits should update contact names and addresses immediately with the Secretary of State's office. Send your information by e-mail to corporations@sos.arkansas.gov, by fax at (501) 682-3437 or by mail to Business and Commercial Services, Arkansas Secretary of State, State Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201.

The nonprofit annual report form is available online at www.sos.arkansas.gov. Simply download the form and mail it to the address above or request a form by mail. Online filing is not yet available for nonprofit organizations.

Questions about franchise taxes or nonprofit annual reports? E-mail us at the address above or call (501) 682-3409 or toll-free 1-888-233-0325.

Staffers Hit the Road, Bringing the Capitol to You

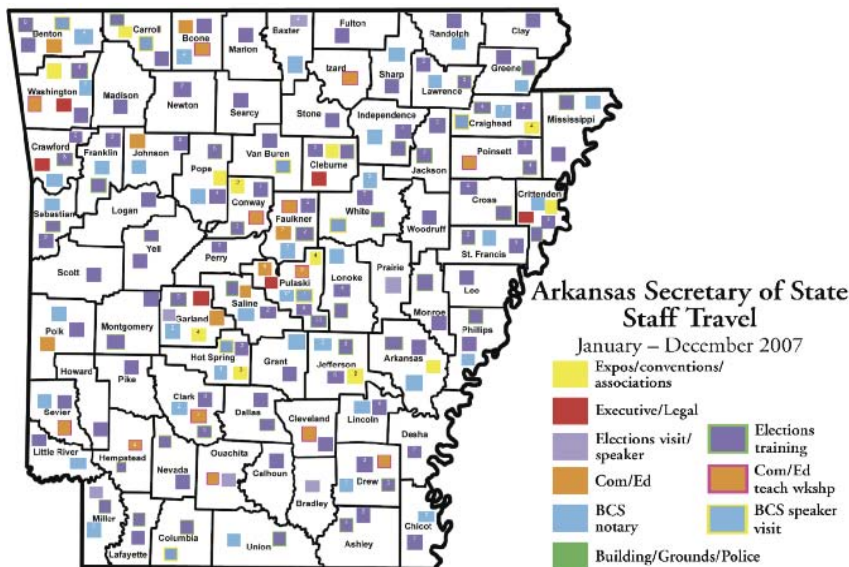
Outreach is a vital part of the Arkansas Secretary of State's office, from educating voters and training poll workers to providing Arkansas history resources and information. Our staff members travel across the state, speaking to civic organizations, training seminars and other events, taking the office to the public.

In 2007, representatives of the Secretary of State's office conducted or participated in almost 400 events around Arkansas. Elections staff trained public agencies such as libraries and revenue offices in registering clients to vote, and demonstrated voting machines to retirement centers and high schools. Employees of the Business and Commercial Services division discussed how to incorporate a business and trained notaries public. Communications and Education personnel conducted Arkansas history workshops for school teachers and described the history of the Capitol building to civic groups.

"The sheer number of events we held demonstrates our commitment to taking this office to the people of Arkansas," Secretary Daniels said. "That number, 400 events, doesn't even include one-on-one meetings, such as when our elections coordinators meet with county clerks, election commissioners, and other contacts."

Furthermore, Daniels said, "We want to do more and meet with more people across the state. That's the goal of our Speakers Bureau: we provide speakers to civic organizations to discuss every aspect of what the Secretary of State's office does for Arkansas."

The Secretary of State Speakers Bureau includes representatives from each division of the office. To schedule a speaker or request a list of general presentations, call (501) 683-0057 or e-mail speakers@sos.arkansas.gov.



Retirement Brings End to an Era

Twenty-five years after beginning her service with the office of the Arkansas Secretary of State, Outreach Coordinator Judi E. Dietz officially retired March 1, 2008. Serving under four Secretaries of State, Judi worked in many areas of the office with duties ranging from filing corporations and processing receipts to serving as a legislative liaison and office representative at trade shows and conferences.

Among her many accomplishments, Judi was probably best known throughout the state as the Capitol Tour Director. Her passion for educating students on state government and the Capitol Building was apparent to each group she guided



through the Capitol. She also helped coordinate projects including Sister Cities International, History on Parade and holiday events at the Capitol, as well as serving on the planning committees for major events such as the 2001 National Association of Secretaries of State conference in Little Rock.

“With her vast knowledge and community contacts gained through many years of experience, Judi has been a huge asset to the Secretary of State Office,” Secretary of State Charlie Daniels stated. “While we all will miss her, I sincerely appreciate all she has done for the office and wish her the best as she enters this new phase in her life.”

State Parks Celebrate Diamond Anniversary

Capitol Exhibit Salutes 52 State Parks

From camping and fishing to diamond mines and folk music, Arkansas State Parks have embodied the experiences that define The Natural State for 75 years. In celebration of that milestone, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels presents the Capitol’s spring 2008 exhibit, *Arkansas State Parks: 75 Years of Making Memories*.

The exhibit is both a salute to and an invitation to visit the 52 parks and museums that comprise today’s state parks system. A signpost in the center of the Capitol’s first-floor rotunda points the way to these crown jewels of the Natural State. In addition to vivid photographs, artifacts such as prehistoric ceramics, vintage tourist literature and handcrafted furniture illustrate the variety of sights and activities Arkansas’s state parks offer.

Arkansas State Parks began in 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal “Tree Army” began construction atop Petit Jean Mountain near Morrilton. The rustic-style facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and, later, the Works Progress Administration, formed a model for parks that followed. Today, Petit Jean endures along with Mount Nebo, Crowley’s Ridge, Devil’s Den and Lake Catherine state parks as a legacy of the craftsmanship and conservation achievements of the CCC and WPA.

The state’s park system shines with diversity. Mountains, lakes, recreation areas, scenic vistas and historic sites are preserved within the system that welcomed more than 9

million visitors last year. Among the facilities within the system are over 1,700 campsites, 100 cabins, four hotel-style lodges, marinas, golf courses, and hundreds of miles of hiking and multi-use trails. In addition to numerous museums and two arboretums, the parks encompass 29 lakes and 12 rivers.

Arkansas State Parks: 75 Years of Making Memories was designed and fabricated by Arkansas State Parks’ Exhibit Shop Supervisor Dorothy Meeks and Exhibit Specialist Keith Martin in collaboration with the Secretary of State’s office. Located on the Capitol’s first-floor, the exhibit continues through May from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.



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Castoffs in the Attic Fuel Curiosity

This fall, as workers prepared the Capitol dome for its annual holiday lighting, crews brought down armloads of outdated lights and debris from the dark spaces between the inner and outer domes. Boxes of colored light bulbs, some with brass bases, came down the stairs, as did decades-old newspapers, rusted paint cans and other faded bounty.



One of those finds was a small cardboard box that once contained a roll of Kodak Autographic film. The film's special backing paper allowed the user to jot down notes on the negative between each frame;

if the photographer wanted to make a note, he or she would open a metal flap and use the stylus to write on the backing. The note would appear on the negative and any finished prints.

The film box found between the domes bears an expiration date of July 1923. Presumably, it was left by a visitor who gained access to the upper rotunda area on a day in 1922 or 1923. We can only imagine what images ended up on that roll and have no way of knowing if the photographer used the

autographic feature. But we can dream: much of the history of what happened in, around and to the structure between its completion in 1915 and the late 1930s is unknown or under-reported. The Capitol Historian's office is always happy to learn of newly-discovered vintage photos of the Capitol and its surroundings. The images caught on this roll of Autographic film may survive in some family album or shoebox full of prints. With a little luck they may some day find their way "home."

